

# RUTHERFORD COUNTY MANAGER

## County Commissioners

**Julius Owens**, *Chairman*

**William Eckler**, *Vice Chairman*

**Greg Lovelace**

**Eddie Holland**

**Roger Richard**

**Carl Classen**, *County Manager*

**Hazel S. Haynes**, *Clerk to the Board*

**Richard Williams**, *County Attorney*

September 6, 2013

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

## **Weekly Report Items** **Week Ending September 6, 2013**

### **General:**

This is a highlight of items from the previous week. It is not meant to be exhaustive but to inform the Commissioners and Department Heads.

### **Airport:**

A project meeting was held on Tuesday at the airport with Dion Viventi, NCDOT, and Jimmy Luther, WK Dickson, to discuss future needs of the airport and funding under the NCDOT Strategic Mobility Plan. Welcome Larry Jones to the Airport staff. Mr. Jones will begin work on Saturday Sept 7<sup>th</sup> as a part time employee.

### **Board of Elections:**

Staff have been busy this week preparing and sending letters of appointment to the Chief Judges and Judges and scheduling dates for registration at all the local high schools as required each September. The office has received and approved proofs of our ballots for the November election.

### **Building Inspections:**

Building Inspections has issued 30 permits for a total of \$7,174 in fees. Included in those permits are 2 new house starts and 2 additional buildings at HorseHead. These two house starts bring the 2013 total of new house permits to 62 single family homes and 26 multi-family units. Inspectors have conducted 137 inspections this week also.

### **Clerk to the Board:**

County Office Building staff welcomed new folks into our quarters this week. We will be sharing space with the Revenue Department during the months of September and October. The regularly scheduled County Commissioners meeting will be held on September 9 rather than September 2 due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting will be held in the Training Room at the Ellenboro Volunteer Fire Department, 175 Depot Street, Ellenboro. The change in location is due to the relocation of the Revenue Department for the months of September and October. October's meeting will be held in Lake Lure. More details will be supplied as they become available. The agenda for the meeting is available online. The second webinar produced by the School of Government providing information on new legislation was held at the Training Room at the Rutherford Center on Thursday. Commissioners have been invited to participate in the grand opening of Carolina Trust Bank on Friday.

**Cooperative Extension:**

The **Director** continues working towards the completion of the Agricultural Educational Livestock Facility, attended the WNC Feeder calf sale in Canton, and continues to assist clients with technical problems through office visits, phone calls, email, and farm visits. The **Family and Consumer Sciences Agent** submitted the monthly news column to the Daily Courier, attended a Community Health Council meeting, and taught the Cook Smart Eat Smart program. The **Agricultural Agent** assisted Tracy Davis in providing an Agriculture segment for the Cook Smart Eat Smart program, and held Master Gardner Volunteer training. Contacts made: 47. The 4-H Youth Development Agent is serving on the NC 4-H Congress Advisory Committee for 2013-2016.

**County Manager:**

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week beginning with a meeting at the Airport. Continuing he attended a TIP meeting, met with John Domansky from Rutherford Hospital, attended a Community Health Board meeting, and held several conference calls with Solid Waste Director James Kilgo and Recycling consultant Cody Marshal regarding the Enhanced Recycling Contract. Mr. Classen had several conference calls with the Economic Development Director regarding various projects, attended a Local Government Legislative webinar, worked with the Clerk to the Board on preparing the September 9 Commissioners Agenda packet, and met with Commissioner Holland and Lovelace to review the agenda. Ending the week, Mr. Classen attended a Western Highlands Board meeting in Asheville, had a conference call with NCPTS/Farragut on the Revenue Department data migration, and met with the County Attorney to review legal issues.

**Economic Development**

This week, the Executive Director worked with staff to prepare and submit a response to an industrial recruitment RFP; followed up on existing recruitment efforts; reviewed and submitted grant reimbursement requests; continued planning efforts on the upcoming product tour; and made preparations for an upcoming prospect visit.

The Project Administrator was on leave. The Economic Development Assistant submitted invoicing to the Department of Commerce for the NC LITE UP operations; prepared and submitted the safety report; prepared a chart highlighting employment and taxation documentation from an existing industry with regards to possible incentives owed to them and worked on assembling information for an industrial recruitment RFP.

**Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:**

The Fire Marshal completed 2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant universal and optional local activity requirements and selected local activities to be completed for 2014 grant funding. Staff participated in WebEOC training and a legislative review webinar. The Fire Marshal also attended the Emergency Management Response Team meeting and provided a presentation on "Search and Rescue" to Boy Scout Troop 132. In addition, the Fire Marshal's office scheduled ladder testing for all fire departments.

**Finance:**

The Assistant Director continues to meet with people who are purchasing items off Gov Deals. The Director attended several meetings this week regarding Solid Waste, the Revenue Department budget, VoIP, and other matters. Finance staff has completed another pay cycle. Friday is Relay, come join our staff to help the Fight Against Cancer.

**Human Resources:**

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. No employees have left the service of Rutherford County. The HR Director, along with the Solid Waste Director and Convenience Center Supervisor, conducted interviews for the Convenience Center. The Director also worked on the EE04 report and attended a mediation hearing.

**Information Technology:**

The IT Department has been involved in getting the Revenue Department staff up and running at the County Annex this week.

**Library:**

The library has experienced a busy week with more than 200 patrons per day following Monday's holiday. The pre-school story hour begins next week at all three county libraries. Be sure and check the county website for dates and times. <http://www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org/>

**Public Works/Planning:**

The garage had 5 preventative maintenance service calls, 9 repairs, 4 tire service calls and 5 other repairs. Maintenance completed 28 work orders and repairs along with preventative maintenance and groundskeeping, in addition to repair efforts on the chiller at the detention center, which is working great now. The Director attended a PART-F application workshop in Asheville, in addition, to accompanying several Planning Commission members and Commissioner Eckler on solar site visit in Cleveland County. Research continues on solar standards as the Public workshop is set for September 12 at 7:00 at the ICC Foundation. The Revenue Dept. relocating has begun and continues into next week, when construction is slated to begin.

**Greyrock Updates:**

Project 8 grading has been completed for approximately the first 1000 linear feet. No stone has been put down yet since additional clearing is taking place to completely clear Project 8 and Project 3B. Project 3B grading is continuing simultaneously. There is great grass growth on this project. Project 7 is nearing completion. There is approximately 1-2 weeks of grading left and an additional 2 week of stone installation and seeding/matting to complete. Project 4 Paving pre-bid conference is next week. It is my goal to have Project 4, 3B and 8 paved this year. Projects 9-12 will be paved next year. Project 11 will be bid this year and construction will start this year. Project 10 and 12 will be bid early next year.

**Queens Gap Updates:** Bids will be opened on Project 1 next week. The PER for the water system is underway. The purpose of this is to establish the basis for a Special Tax District to offset the expenses BRWA will incur as the operator of this system with only one water customer. It will incorporate depreciation of mechanical equipment, flushing, and power bills. Work is continuing on Project 3 design.

**Register of Deeds:**

The Register of Deeds office had an active week with 332 transactions collecting \$13,924.25.

**The Revenue**

The Revenue Department has begun moving items to the County Annex building this week. The move is anticipated to be complete by Friday, September 6.

**Senior Center:**

The Senior Center started a new six-week program called "How to Write Your Life Story." Linda Tomblin will be leading and instructing this class. She has been writing for over thirty years and was a contributing editor for Guideposts magazine. Ms. Tomblin has co-written two books, been published in numerous magazines, and has taught writing at conferences and workshops nationwide. This class will be on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:15 a.m. and will continue through October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Center also started a new event called "Breakfast with the Director." This event allows a small group of seniors to sit down with the Director and talk about how they feel things are going at the Center. Lastly, the Senior Shiners went out Friday to visit and entertain the residents at Life Care Adult Day Care.

**Soil and Water:**

The Admin/Education Specialist attended a Farm City Planning Meeting, worked on the Farm City Poster Contest information and prepared Agenda and information packets for District Board Meeting. The Ag Cost Share Technician met with NRCS staff and contractor to discuss work on project, went on a technical assistance visit and continued working on Agriculture Cost Share Contracts. Staff attended the September District Board Meeting.

**Solid Waste:**

The Solid Waste Department served 302 customers, hauled 47 loads from convenience centers and shipped 26 loads to Lenoir. The Director has been busy working with Cody Marshal (Resource Recycling) to complete a contract with a

vendor for recyclables. The Director along with Judy Toney HR Director, held interviews for part time floaters for convenience centers. Also, the Director and Terry James have been working on a system to eliminate complaints about swap and shop buildings. The rest of the staff has been busy handling the heavy trash loads due to the holiday closing and performing other jobs, such as, bush hogging.

**Tourism:**  
**No report**

**Transportation Services:**

**EMS:** This week EMS Personnel responded to a very high number of calls with 156 emergency calls and 103 convalescent calls. Convalescent calls are double what they were in April. The Director and Operations Manager both joined the Community Health Council which met this week. EMS submitted a Facebook grant for advanced stair chairs which will allow medics to transport patients quickly and safely down stairs and in tight spaces. Also, ventilator transport services began September 1<sup>st</sup> and is now available for use when needed. **Transit:** Transit drove 7,839 miles, completed 839 local trips and 51 out of county trips, transported 214 unduplicated passengers and collected \$12,480 in revenue. Numbers were down this week due to being closed for the Labor Day holiday. Director attended NCDOT and NCPTA meetings in Raleigh and prepared information for a Public Hearing at the Commissioner's Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> for ROAP funds. Transit also hired two new part time drivers. Automatic calling began this week. Passengers are now getting a reminder voice message the night before and 25 minutes before their pick up on the day of their trip. Transit also submitted a Facebook grant for mobile tablets in all vehicles. **NOTE:** Transit and EMS are both pleased to be providing services for Relay for Life on Friday night.

**Veterans Office:**

The staff made 119 contacts, received 63 telephone interviews, and had 16 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service. The Service Officer continues to help veterans with food from the food pantry. As Christmas fastly approaches, the Veterans Office has the **Toys for Totes Box**. Please help in filling these boxes to give to local children in need at Christmas.

<b>SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS</b>
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Please see attached articles. These articles were in this month's Rutherford Everyday magazine.



# ONE BUTTON - OR THREE NUMBERS

By Lt. Tammy Aldridge, Director of 911 Communications

## Seeking Help at the Push of a Button(s)

One in three seniors over the age of 65 will fall this year. Do you or someone you know or care for wear a medical alert pendant such as Lifeline? The pendant could be worn on a necklace that you can press for help if the need arises. If so, below are some helpful tips and vital information for you to receive the response you need in the minimal amount of time.

- If you are unable to call 911 by phone and need medical or another type of assistance, absolutely, press the button on the medical alert pendant if you have one.
- If a caregiver or friend is calling for you and they can get to a telephone, always call 911. When you press those three numbers (911) from a standard landline telephone the Telecommunicator views the following things on the screen: the phone number you are calling from, the name associated with that phone, and the address you are calling from. In this case all the Telecommunicator needs to do is confirm the information and the nature of the emergency. They can then immediately dispatch the appropriate responders to your address.

If you have a medical alert pendant and are not able to call 911 by telephone, do as instructed by your medical alert supplier. If possible call 911 from your home telephone. Using a cell phone can make tracing and entering your call more difficult. Always remember to cooperate and stay as calm as possible so the Telecommunicator can help in your time of need. If you are talking too fast or in a mode of panic, it will take the Telecommunicator longer to gather necessary information. Advise the Telecommunicator your location, describe the emergency, answer all the Telecommunicator's questions, and follow instructions.

## Other Programs offered to you by the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office

**Are You Okay?** A Telephone reassurance program. The "Are You Okay" (RUOK) program is designed to check on seniors and help them and their family to have peace of mind. This program was implemented in 1990 with the purpose of checking on seniors. This system is for any Rutherford County Citizen that is living alone and shows a need for the program.

This system consists of a personal computer system, telephone, printer and the Are You Ok Software. The computer stores subscriber names, numbers and call times. When RUOK is started

it automatically calls each person in the system at their predetermined time. RUOK is designed to run 24/7 and automatically cycles every day at midnight. When RUOK hears a voice response on the phone it delivers a short prerecorded message. If the RUOK subscriber doesn't answer after a preset number of call attempts, an alert is given to The 911 Communications Center. The Telecommunicators immediately attempt to make contact with relatives, friends, and/or neighbors to check on the subscriber. They will also notify the appropriate emergency personnel to respond to the residence to assist the subscriber if necessary.

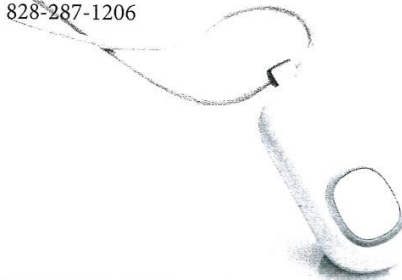
There are no charges for Are You Okay. This is a donation driven program.

For more information contact: Lt. Leon Godlock 828-287-6395

**Project Lifesaver International:** Project Lifesaver is an innovative rapid response program aiding victim's and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease or related disorders such as Down syndrome or autism. Project Lifesaver deploys a specially trained team with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers.

People who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When a caregiver notifies the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1000 searches across the nation, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. The average recovery time is 30 minutes.

For more information contact: Detective Justin McCluney 828-287-1206





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**RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

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By Matt Blackwell, Executive Director Rutherford County  
 Economic Development Commission

The past twelve months have been filled with news of continuing economic improvement and the creation new job Opportunities but our work is certainly far from done. While it is, without doubt, a welcome sight to see construction crews erecting new facilities, industries beginning to hire and our citizens returning to work, we cannot lose sight of the absolute need to continue to prepare Rutherford County for the challenge which lies ahead. The ever increasing competition to recruit the most promising jobs to our communities continues to become more challenging as communities throughout the country better prepare themselves with new business parks and shovel-ready sites. Whether working with existing industry to encourage expansions or recruiting new manufacturing opportunities, job creation remains a top priority for Rutherford County Economic Development. Education and workforce development remain vital components in Rutherford County's ability to retain and attract quality employment opportunities. Rutherford County Schools, Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, and Lake Lure Academy are striving to incorporate technology and innovation into the classroom that will better prepare our students to continue their education or successfully secure employment in today's technologically advanced manufacturing environment. Isothermal Community College leads the way to place our county in a strong competitive position with its ability to offer quality continued education opportunities as well as customized training capabilities. Rutherford County Economic Development began a business retention and expansion program, Work, Grow, Thrive!, in November 2012 with a focus on providing assistance and opportunities for growth to existing industry.

Although we must continue to nurture our newest community gems, it is important that we continue to foster a business climate that at least meets, if not exceeds, the expectations of industry and begin planning the next phases of economic development in our county. Infrastructure continues to be our greatest asset and weakness. While our electrical redundancy, fiber availability, and public water capacities are substantial, access to quality transportation systems will continue to limit our development opportunities. Continued support of improving Highway 74 to interstate status and the identification of potential rail-served industrial sites is essential to recruiting key target industries identified in the May 2013 Economic Development Strategic Plan and Target Market Analysis. However, the most important ingredient to economic development success is leadership. With great public and private leadership, we can develop our assets and this county to compete at the highest level to successfully recruit quality jobs and investment to our county. Rutherford County is blessed with many great community, business, and elected leaders who can make possible a pathway to our success.

Rutherford County Economic Development is dedicated to attracting and retaining desirable businesses and employers to continue improving and diversifying economic opportunities in Rutherford County. In addition to business retention and attraction efforts, Rutherford County Economic Development is committed to improving area infrastructure, especially water, sewer and transportation, improving the general business climate, increasing commercial development and jobs growth, and informing citizens of the advantages of economic development.

Matt Blackwell  
 Executive Director  
 Rutherford County Economic Development



## **RELAY IS THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>-WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

RELAY has kicked off with many fund raisers on the horizon—we hope each employee will get involved in some way with RELAY—upcoming fundraisers:

April 11                      Spaghetti lunch-County Office Building-  
Spaghetti lunch a success-raised apprx \$650.00 dollars—thank you to everyone who helped in any way!!!  
April 20                      Sheriff's Shooting Tournament-Bostic Gun Club-  
A total success raising \$1,130—thank you to the Sheriff and staff and all the volunteers and participants  
May 3                        Hanging basket sale-another great success—we sold 175 baskets/flats with a total profit  
of \$500.00  
May 4                        Mayfest- sold flowers and quilt tickets  
May 17                       RADA –SUCCESS raised over \$600—thanks to everyone  
June 14                       Father's Day Auction---\$85.00  
June 29                       RELAY YARD SALE --\$108.25  
August 9                      Auction-Blue Grass CD's--\$45.00  
August 30                    Tupperware  
Zumbathon-thank you to Brooke Watson for teaching these classes \$230  
Now until RELAY night—dimes for Relay—filling up 20 ounce water bottles with dimes—each bottle equals  
\$100  
Now until RELAY night-Quilt ticket sales